

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A crib apparatus, comprising:
 - a headboard and a footboard, the headboard and footboard being spaced from and arranged substantially parallel to one another;
 - 5 first and second side rails, the first and second side rails being spaced from and arranged substantially parallel to one another and substantially orthogonal to the headboard and the footboard, each of the first and second side rails being operatively attached to the headboard and footboard; and
 - 10 a mattress frame for supporting a mattress, the mattress frame being operatively attached to at least the headboard and footboard and being substantially orthogonal to the headboard, footboard and side rails;
 - wherein at least one of the headboard and the footboard includes an access opening formed therein through which the mattress can be slidably removed from the crib apparatus.
- 15 2. The crib apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one access panel configurable for preventing the mattress from being slidably removed through the access opening when in a first position and for providing access for slidably removing the mattress through the access opening when in a second position.
- 20 3. The crib apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a locking mechanism, the locking mechanism being configured so as to prevent inadvertent removal of the mattress from the crib apparatus.
4. The crib apparatus of claim 3, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a first portion fixedly attached to the at least one access panel and a second portion fixedly attached to at least one of the headboard and the footboard, the first and second portions of the locking mechanism

being coupled together while in a first position and being uncoupled from one another while in a second position.

5. The crib apparatus of claim 2, wherein the at least one access panel is pivotally attached to at least one of the headboard and the footboard, the access panel being configured so as to provide a surface for supporting the mattress while the mattress is slidably removed from the crib apparatus.

10. The crib apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second side rails is configured such that a height of the at least one side rail can be lowered and raised, in relation to the headboard and footboard, between a plurality of vertical positions, a first one of the positions corresponding to a locked position and at least a second one of the positions corresponding to a lowered position.

7. The crib apparatus of claim 6, wherein the crib apparatus is configured such that the at least one side rail can be placed in the lowered position when the mattress is at least partially slid out from the crib apparatus.

15. 8. The crib apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mattress frame is slidably attached to at least the headboard and footboard, the mattress frame being configured such that the mattress frame can be slid out substantially horizontally from the crib apparatus through the access opening in at least one of the headboard and footboard.

20. 9. The crib apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mattress frame is configurable for selectively adjusting a height of the mattress.

10. The crib apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mattress frame comprises a substantially solid tray in which or on which the mattress is supported, the tray being slidably mounted in relation to at least one of the headboard, footboard and side rails.

5 11. The crib apparatus of claim 10, wherein the tray includes at least one opening formed therein to facilitate grasping of the mattress frame for sliding the mattress from the crib apparatus.

10 12. The crib apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one slidable track assembly, the slidable track assembly having a first portion fixedly attached to at least one of the headboard and the footboard and a second portion fixedly attached to the mattress frame, the first and second portions of the track assembly being slidably attached together in relation to one another so as to enable the mattress frame to be slidably removed from the crib apparatus in a substantially horizontal manner.

15 13. The crib apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of the headboard, footboard, and first and second side rails is at least partially formed having a plurality of spaced vertical bar members.

20 14. The crib apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the headboard and the footboard include at least two support legs spaced laterally from one another at opposite ends of the headboard and footboard, each of the support legs including a plurality of vertically spaced attachment positions, the height of the attachment positions on a given support leg being substantially the same as corresponding attachment positions associated with the other support legs, whereby a height of the mattress frame is selectively adjustable by attaching the mattress frame to the support legs at corresponding attachment positions on the support legs.

15. The crib apparatus of claim 1, further comprising alarm circuitry for at least one of detecting and indicating a presence of an alarm condition.

16. The crib apparatus of claim 15, wherein the alarm circuitry is configurable for detecting a relative position of the mattress with respect to the crib apparatus and providing an indication when the mattress is slid out from the crib apparatus beyond a predetermined distance.

17. The crib apparatus of claim 16, wherein the alarm indication comprises at least one of an audible indicator and a visual indicator.

18. The crib apparatus of claim 15, wherein the alarm circuitry is configurable for providing an indication of the presence of the alarm condition to a remote location.

19. The crib apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of support legs, each of the support legs being attached to a corresponding corner of the mattress frame, the support legs being configurable for selectively adjusting a height of the crib apparatus.

20. The crib apparatus of claim 1, wherein a width of the first and second side rails is greater than a width of at least one of the headboard and the footboard.